

pregnant once more. Dr. Lang hopes to ascertain the exact gestation period this time.

In the only previously known instance of an Indian rhino born in captivity (Calcutta Zoo, see *JBNHS* 31:1031, 1927) the gestation period was estimated as about 19 months. Earlier Hodgson had given it as 17 to 18 months.

For the African Twohorned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros bicornis*) the period of gestation is given as 530-570 days (THE NATURAL HISTORY OF MAMMALS by F. Bourliere: 165, 1955).

Since the birth in the Basel Zoo a further 'domestic occurrence' in the world of captive Indian rhinos has been reported. A calf was born in November 1957 to Mohini the female of the pair living in Whipsnade Park, U.K., since 1952. The gestation period in this case is said to have been 16 months. The calf at birth was about 22 inches in length and about 18 inches high, and estimated to weigh between 85-100 lb.

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EDITORS

## 6. THE MUNTJAC IN BRITAIN

The muntjac—frequently called the Barking Deer or Rib-faced Deer, by reason of its vocal powers or facial appearance—was first liberated about 1900 by the eleventh Duke of Bedford into the woods both inside and outside his park at Woburn. The original deer were the Indian race—*Muntiacus muntjak*—but after a time, partly because the bucks were proving dangerous to small dogs but mainly to make room for the smaller Reeves's Muntjac—*Muntiacus reevesi*, a native of China—efforts were made to kill off the Indian race. This was not completely achieved and the two races have inter-bred.

From Woburn this small deer has now extended its range into all adjacent counties, which include Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and Northamptonshire, whilst individual animals have been reported as far afield as south Leicestershire and Essex.

As regards an estimate of the number of muntjac at large in Britain, this is of course almost impossible but I would say it was not less than 400 and might be up to 1,000. Northwest they have been recorded as much as sixty miles from Woburn and in the south-westerly direction quite a large number exist in the Bicester area which is about 25 miles from Woburn. In an easterly direction

isolated reports have come from places 60 miles from Woburn but whether these animals have wandered there or been planted is not certain.

THE OLD HOUSE, WITHNELL FOLD,  
CHORLEY. LANCs., ENGLAND,

G. KENNETH WHITEHEAD

January 24, 1958.

## 7. ADDITIONS TO THE BIRDS OF THE PALNI HILLS (SOUTH INDIA)

Subsequent to my notes published on pages 265-267 of Volume 53 of the *Journal*, I have collected a few more birds in the Palni Hills the following of which appear to be new records for that area:

1. **Chloropsis aurifrons insularis** Kinnear & Whistler: Goldfronted Chloropsis

Palni foothills, 1,500 ft., near Periakulam, 26-5-1956.

2. **Hypothymis azurea styani** (Hartlaub): Blacknaped Blue Flycatcher

Five specimens, Manalur Cardamom and Coffee Estate, 4,000 ft., 18-5-1956.

3. **Lanius vittatus** Valenciennes: Baybacked Shrike

Foothills near Aiyampalayam, 1,000 ft., 20-5-1956.

4. **Cacomantis merulinus passerinus** (Vahl): Plaintive Cuckoo

Pambar Valley opposite Periakulam, 1,000 ft., 27-5-1956.

5. **Hydrophasianus chirurgus** (Scopoli): Pheasant-tailed Jaçana

Needamangalam, a small irrigation tank situated between Palni Town and the foothills which climb to Perumalmalai, 30-4-1957.

6. **Gorsachius melanolophus melanolophus** (Raffles): Malay Bittern

Captured alive by American schoolboys at 'Bombay Shola', Kodaikanal, 7,000 ft., and reared for three weeks on tadpoles and frogs; now in the Shembaganur Museum, 7-4-1957.

7. **Microtarsus poioicephalus** (Jerdon): Greyheaded Bulbul

9-5-1957. This species has already been recorded for the Palnis, but is mentioned here because the specimen was collected as high as 4,000 ft., near Machur along the motor road from Batlagundu to Kodaikanal, the earlier ones being from the foothills.